

Parish News

April 2025

The Community Magazine for you.
With Information and News from you.

Delivered to the whole of the Parish

Aley Green

Slip End

Pepperstock

Woodside

Editors' Notes

Happy April folks! Hope everyone's keeping well and looking forward to a very welcome change of weather with Spring finally having sprung (yes, I realise I may have just tempted fate there, sorry in advance).

This month we have the start of a collection of memoirs written by Ethel Ruckwood, a member of the Edwards family, back in 1974. In this month's snippet, Ethel recalls her and her family arriving in Slip End in 1904. More of Ethel's memoirs will be shared over the coming months. I would personally like to thank Karen Casoria (a relative of Ethel) and Catherine Hazell for sharing these fascinating stories with us and hope you will enjoy reading them as much as I have. You will find these on pages 28 and 29.

With 3 months until Village Day, there's more information about this year's event on page 4. Keep your eyes peeled over the coming months for more information on the big day.

April is the month for feeling patriotic as St George's Day comes around towards the end of the month (23rd April to be precise) and Caddington are bringing the celebrations on 27th April with their annual St George's Funday at the Heathfield Centre, see page 13 for details.

We would like to get your thoughts on the Parish News, after all, it's your community magazine, John and I just edit it and put it together, the news and articles come from you. With this in mind, we will be sending out a survey on Slip Enders Facebook group and would really appreciate it if you would be able to give us feedback to tell us how amazing we are (hopefully) or where you think we could improve.

On that note, I wish you a fantastic month ahead and I will be back with you for the June edition.

Matt's Musing

There's nothing as wonderful as waking up in the morning next to a gorgeous smiling face. This is why I keep a mirror next to my bed.



Slip End Parish Council

VE Day Celebrations – 5th May 2025

Village Hall | Slip End
11 am- 2 pm

Victory in Europe Day is the day celebrating the formal acceptance by the Allies of the World War II of Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces on Tuesday, 8 May 1945; it marked the official end of World War II in Europe in the Eastern Front with the last known shots fired on 11 May.

Slip End Parish Council would like to invite all residents of Slip End, Woodside, and Pepperstock on Monday 5th May to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. We will start at 11am outside the Village Hall with the raising of the flag and the lighting of the lamp of peace followed by a Piper playing. We will then go into the Village Hall where we will have refreshments and Cake with music of the time and information about VE Day. Everyone is welcome, for this free event and we would love families to attend. Colouring sheets / sweets are available for children.

The Rising Sun PH will then put on a BBQ with music from 2 pm onward.

If anyone wishes to help on the day, please contact the Clerk below.

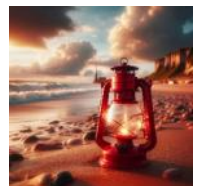
We also would like to hear from anyone who has any family stories photographs of VE Day in the parish of Slip End which they are happy to include in our Display Boards

We want it to be a great event, so please save the date in your diaries.

If you can help, please contact me:

Clerk: Tracey O'Neill – clerk@slipendparishcouncil.gov.uk

Contact: 07487 850249



Slip End Village Day

Slip End Playing Fields
(Next to St. Andrew's Church) LU1 4BJ



Just a reminder to put the date on your calendars, on your phones and in your diaries. Planning is well under way and we are pleased to tell you that Teaching Talons, Pan Music, Hemlock Morris and Pepperstock Archers and Crazy Golf are all lined up to entertain us all.

The barbecue and the bar plus tea and cakes and ice cream will be available for lunch and afternoon tea.

Village Groomers are sponsoring the dog show and there are some lovely rosettes to be won. There will be a scurry to give your dogs some extra fun.

Quite a lot of stallholders are already booking their places . If you would like to have a stall for yourself or to raise money for a charity please contact us on the email below.

We are looking forward to welcoming everyone on the day and if you are able to give a little of your time either before or on the day please do let us know . We are always glad of extra pairs of hands to take a turn on the bar, BBQ and raffle or on the entrance .

Please contact us on slipendvillageday@yahoo.com

Linedancing classes

If you fancy coming along to join us, we meet every Wednesday from 10am until 12 at Caddington Social Club. Its good fun and helps with exercise and memory.

Contact Jean Anderson on 07737317147 or just come along on a Wednesday and bring a drink. Cost £5.00

By Sue Briggs



THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

AND ST ANDREWS CHURCH

SOUP & A SARNIE

AT THE RISING SUN

TUESDAYS 12.00PM TO 2.00PM

~ ~ ~

7TH, 14TH, 21ST, 28TH JANUARY 2025

4TH, 11TH, 18TH, 25TH FEBRUARY

4TH, 11TH, 18TH, 25TH MARCH

1ST, 8TH, 15TH, 29TH APRIL

NOTE: WE'RE NOT HERE ON 22ND APRIL



£3 for soup & a sarnie

£1 for tea or coffee

**QUIZZES
BINGO**

If you need a lift call 07513 372415

Parish Council Update



Central Bedfordshire Council Budget

Overview of some of the key facts from the Budget.

- The budget agreed to a 4.9% maximum increase on council tax.
- A resolution for reduced hours at Dunstable library was rejected and the opening hours will remain the same.
- Proposal for operating recycling centres on two days per week was rejected.
- There will be additional money put aside for gulley cleaning and this will become an annual programme and not bi-annual.

230 Bus route

Centrebus have been given direction on what **CASEBUG** would like to see for the local parishes and this was agreed, they are just awaiting confirmation.

It is envisaged that, by the end of March, Pepperstock will be included in the timetable. This will mean shifting the timetable by about 10mins later to align with other bus services and trains, leaving more time to get connections.

Van / Car Thefts

The council discussed the increase in Van / Car thefts in the parish and were concerned that the theft reports given to Bedfordshire Police were not being addressed. The Clerk has written to the Community Policing Team asking for an update on what is being done to combat this and asking for a police presence.

Cllr Vicky Malone has spoken to the Community team and there are plans for the Community team to send representatives to the parish on a weekend for residents to speak to them.

There is also a Community Police Priority Setting meeting in April where local Council members have been invited to be given an update on what is being done to combat crime and ask questions.

Victory in Europe Day - 80 Year Anniversary

The Council discussed the arrangements to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in the Parish. The Village hall has been booked for Monday 5th April from 11 am – 2 pm.

There will be a raising of the VE Day flag and lighting of the Lamp of Peace followed by a Bag Piper piping to mark the event. There will then be refreshments in the hall. There will be display boards and music.

From 2 pm onwards The Rising Sun PH will arrange a BBQ and festivities.

Big Clean Up in the Parish

The Council discussed the rubbish that has been littered on the grass verges in the Parish and would like to in conjunction with the Big Clean Up Campaign do a weekend where we would ask local community groups and residents to take part in.

The Clerk will reach out to local groups and schools to ask if they wish to take part. There will an advert on social media and Parish Notice Boards in due course.

St Andrew's Woodside Community Coffee Morning



**Saturday 26th April 2025
10.00 am to noon at St Andrew's Church**

**Tea, coffee, conversation and good company
Drop in at any time. All welcome.**

Contact Julie on 07841482119 if transport is a problem.

Slip End Preschool



Open Monday - Friday
(Term time only)

🕒 9am - 3pm daily

📍 Slip End Village Hall

Children aged 1-4 years

- ✓ Extra-curricular activities
- ✓ High staff-child ratio
- ✓ 2, 3 and 4 year funded places
- ✓ Rated **GOOD** by Ofsted
(September 2022)

For more information please contact
Hayley Bolton on **07889 824367**

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Aley Green Methodist Church



Dates for April

Tues 1st 10am-1pm Cakes and Company. We hope to restart Little Lambs Club

Sat 5th 10am Prayer Breakfast

Sun 6th 10:30am Morning Service led by Rev S-W Jung and Sunday School

Mon 7th 2pm Ecumenical Lent Fellowship 5 led by Jo Prowse

Sun 13th 10:30am Palm Sunday Morning Service led by Rev Tim Haines

Mon 14th 2pm Ecumenical Lent Fellowship 6 led by Jo Prowse

Fri 18th Good Friday Walk of Witness

Sun 20th 10:30am Easter Sunday Morning Service Rev Nigel Bibbings (with Holy Communion)

Sun 27th Apr 10:30am Morning Service led by Colin Quine

Wed 30th 7:30pm Coffee Evening in aid of Mission Direct

Future dates...

Sun 4th May the service will be led by Catherine Roots.

Sun 11th May - no morning service as we shall be joining the Churches Together in Caddington for an

Ecumenical Service, to celebrate Christian Aid Week, which will be held at 4pm at Caddington Baptist Church.

Our Sunday School has been growing, and we welcome a good number of children on those Sunday mornings. They usually meet on the first and third Sundays during the service, unless that week clashes with other activities.

Remember that we have moved a few of the regular evening activities to afternoons which appear to be welcomed, especially during the darker evenings.

Our Choir currently meets to practise and sing on Thursday afternoons (second and fourth of the month) at 3:30pm. We always welcome extra singers. You don't have to read music, just enjoy a good sing!

God Bless,

From all at Aley Green



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As the hint or spring fills all around us, there is a great sense of renewal and optimism in the air. Over the past month, we have been in the fortunate position to have had a cross-curricular orienteering course installed at the school and with the warmer (and drier) days nearing we are looking forward to using this across our school day. As we approach Easter, that also means that our annual curtain-raiser – Slip End's Got Talent – is almost upon us. We are looking forward to showcasing the many skills and talents that our children have!

I will now hand over to our wonderful Junior Journalists, who will provide further updates from around the school.

All the best, Mr Young

Ramadan

This month has also been important for our Muslim families who have been observing Ramadan and Jemima in Year 4 wanted to share the following: During Ramadan we fast and we have Iftar parties. Iftar parties are when you go to your family house and have a feast. I have had a lovely time!

World Book Day!

World Book Day encourages children to read and dress as their favourite book characters for a fun day. At Slip End Primary School, we themed world book day on the Wild Robot, a famous book and movie, about a robot who doesn't let anything stop them or get in their way. In Year Six, we engaged in various activities, including drawing and story writing. The teachers dressed up too, not just the children! At the end of the day, all the children sat on mats in the school hall with their best friends watching the wild robot. - **By Darcy Year 6**

This World Book Day was fun and joyful. Everyone expressed which books they liked and how we all had different opinions. We loved how enthusiastic the teachers were and all the compliments we gave each other about our costumes. In the morning, we did tasks in groups based on the Wild Robot. This was nothing like our normal timetable which was weird at first but we got used to it! Then in the afternoon, we watched the Wild Robot. It was fascinating – That was my World Book Day. - **By Leah Year 4**

World Book Day is a very fun day for everyone. You can show your creative outfits and share which books you like and why. Throughout the day we read some of our class reader and more fun books. Fun for everyone!
- **By Scarlett Year 6.**



Good Neighbour Scheme

For the Parish of Slip End, Aley Green, Pepperstock & Woodside

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 4th APRIL 2025, 7.30 PM AT SLIP END VILLAGE HALL AGENDA

- Present
- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising
- Chairman's Annual Report
- Review of Constitution & other policies
- Financial Report for the year
- Nominations to the Committee
- Election of Officers on the Committee for 2025/2026
- AOB - open forum to all attendees, including any suggestions for improving our Scheme and the support it offers to residents.

ALL RESIDENTS, VOLUNTEERS & CLIENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE ABOVE. PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIR, IN WRITING, IF YOU WISH TO PROPOSE ANY RESOLUTIONS, MAKE ANY RECOMMENDATIONS OR HAVE ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AS A.O.B. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ON THE COMMITTEE, PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME FORWARD AT THE MEETING.

The meeting will be followed by a cheese & wine social event for all attendees.

***Simon Patterson, Chair, 6A, The Grove, Woodside, LU1 4LR,
14th March 2025***



St George's Fun Day 2025

Sunday 27th April

11am – 4pm

At the Heathfield Centre in Caddington.

Come to celebrate England's Saint's Day.
Fun for all the family.

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dog show. Food served all day etc.

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Fed up with pot holes? Flooding? Litter?

The quickest and easiest way to report parish problems is via the **FixMyStreet** app.

Downloadable to Android or iPhone devices, you can create an account and then track the progress of the issue.

The screenshot shows the FixMyStreet website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the FixMyStreet logo and links for 'Report a problem', 'Sign in', 'All reports', 'Local alerts', and 'Help'. Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads 'Report, view, or discuss local problems'. Underneath, there is a sub-heading 'Like graffiti, fly tipping, broken paving slabs, or street lighting'. A form prompts the user to 'Enter a nearby UK postcode, or street name and area' with an example 'e.g. 30 426 or The St, Manchester'. A 'Go' button is next to the input field. Below the form, there is a 'Use my current location' button. On the left, a 'How to report a problem' section lists four steps: 1. Enter a nearby UK postcode, or street name and area; 2. Locate the problem on a map of the area; 3. Enter details of the problem; 4. We send it to the council on your behalf. On the right, a 'Recently reported problems' section lists several issues with small images: 'Drain cover' (16/01 today), 'Very large and deep pothole near the bus stop going toward the shed garage' (05/21 today, last reported 05/21 today), 'Large dip / broken section between road and pavement' (05/20 today, last reported 15/20 today), 'Leak Road, Monday' (10/20 today, last reported 10/20 today), and 'Abandoned Visual Cops' (05/20 today). At the bottom left, statistics are shown: '19,986 reports in past week', '25,891 based in past month', and '6,658,394 updates on reports'.



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Slip End Parish Council

Powers and Responsibilities

A parish council is a **civil local authority found in England**, which is the lowest tier of local government. Parish councils are elected corporate bodies, with variable tax raising powers, and they carry out beneficial public activities in geographical areas known as civil parishes. They come in many forms Parish, Town or Community but their powers remain the same. Slip End is a Parish Council.

Slip End Parish Council is made up of 7 elected Councillors or co-opted Councillors (during the term before another election). Our Unitary Council is Central Bedfordshire Council

Parish councils receive the majority of their funding by levying a **Precept** upon the Council Tax paid by the residents of the parish (**your council tax bill will show you the amount the council receive as a separate line**) we get our Precept money from Central Bedfordshire Council. Other funding may be obtained by local fund-raising or grants for specific activities.

Their activities fall into three main categories: representing the local community, delivering services to meet local needs, and improving quality of life and community well being. Parish councils have very few statutory duties (**i.e. things they are required to do by law**) but have a much more extensive range of discretionary powers which they may exercise voluntarily.

Powers to provide facilities

Parish councils may exercise powers to provide, maintain and manage certain facilities. Slip End Parish Council provide the following:

- Buildings for community use, such as Village Halls Town Halls or Community Centres
- Recreational facilities such as parks, playgrounds, playing fields
- Cemeteries and crematoria
- Litter Bins
- Public seats
- Guardianship of Common Land
- Bus Shelters
- Summer Planting
- Grass Cutting
- Aley Green Cemetery

Consultative Powers

Parish councils have the statutory right to be consulted by the local district, borough, county council or unitary authority on:

- All planning applications in their areas

Miscellaneous powers

Parish councils may also exercise the following powers

- Sponsoring public events
- Providing Grants to local voluntary organisations, ie: Good Neighbourhood Scheme, Bowls Club, District Parish News etc
- Providing grants for bus services, and funding community transport Schemes
- Contribution of money towards traffic calming schemes
- Creation of a neighbourhood plan
- Appointing trustees of local charities
- Under the 2021 Environment Act, public authorities (including town and parish councils) operating in England must consider what they can do to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Administration

The administration of the Council is managed by its Clerk, a paid employee appointed by the council, who acts in a combined statutory role of Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer (treasurer).

The Clerk as the Proper Officer "enacts" (cause to happen) the decisions of the Council, and they receive official correspondence and issue correspondence on the instructions of the Council. The clerk also prepares agendas for meetings of the Council and its committees, gives notice of these to the Council members and the public, and records and publishes the minutes of these meetings. The Clerk is the formal point of contact with the public, and a source of information for the public about the Council's activities.

The necessary financial monitoring and reporting are the clerk's responsibility, and in this role the clerk is known as the "Responsible Financial Officer" (RFO) of the Council. The clerk also provides procedural guidance for the Council itself and ensures that statutory and other provisions governing or affecting the running of the Council are observed.

Other Links for Information are:

Local Government Act 1972

Localism Act 2011





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to arrange an appointment

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Gardening Notes *by Russell Sprout*

It's been another wet winter but hopefully you have been able to get started on your garden. Despite the recent sunshine it is still quite cold, so don't be too eager to sow your seeds, if the ground is too cold they won't germinate. Nevertheless we should be able to get on with some jobs that need doing.

Many border annuals can be sown directly into the soil this month to provide a good display of colour and help to suppress weeds. Carnations and pinks will benefit from an application of fertilizer to established plants, border plants should be planted by the middle of the month, tall growing varieties can be staked with twiggy sticks pushed into the soil so that the stems can grow up through them. Sweet peas sown in the spring can be planted out as soon as they are growing strongly.

Tomato plants can be planted in a cool greenhouse now and sow seeds indoors for outdoor tomatoes to plant out when danger of frosts has passed. Sow melons and cucumbers in a propagator, prick out as soon as they are large enough to handle. Keep an eye on fruit trees and bushes as they start to blossom and take action against pests and diseases. As early potatoes start to shoot from the middle of the month protect the leaves from frost either by drawing the soil over them or cover them with straw or newspaper. Check rhubarb and remove any seed heads as soon as they appear, cut them off as near to the base as possible, if left the plant will stop producing edible sticks, they will become dry and woody very quickly.

Plant onion sets in shallow drills and just cover the tops to stop birds pulling them out. Salad crops can be sown as soon as the soil is dry enough to work into a fine tilth but sow little and often, every 2-3 weeks so that you get a continuous supply of crops such as lettuce, radish, spring onion and beetroot and harvest as soon as they are large enough to eat, don't wait to get large woody ones. Carrots can be planted this month, main crop can be sown the middle of next month, sow seeds of late summer cauliflowers and wrinkled seeded varieties of peas which will be ready for picking in approximately 12 weeks. Sow winter cabbages for planting out in June and set out summer cabbages sown last month.

Mulch beds and borders when they have warmed up, after destroying weeds with a hoe and making sure ground is moist. Ensure tender plants are protected from frost. Divide any large clumps of herbaceous plants that are unsightly and replant the outer strongest shoots discarding the middle weaker ones. Rhododendrons and azaleas can be transplanted if they need moving or complete planting of any new bushes (water newly planted bushes if weather is dry). Remove dead heads of early flowering varieties. Dahlias started in boxes can be divided with a sharp knife, making sure that cutting has a bud or shoot on it. Carry on planting gladioli for a succession of flowers.

Complete pruning of roses as soon as possible and apply fertilizer at approximately a handful to the square yard, but leave a six inch circle around the actual plant itself, and hoe into the surface. After a good downpour mulch around the plants with a one inch layer of manure or bark chippings to hold moisture. Still time to repair impoverished lawns this month, a light mowing followed by scarifying and then aerate to improve drainage. Over-seed any bad areas and rake in well, apply a spring fertiliser and level any bumps or hollows.

St. Andrew's Church - Dates for March

If you prefer to join the service virtually via Zoom then you can join using the following numbers **878 5926 2657** and passcode **664663**, or via this link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87859262657?pwd=dTdadm291VDk2anA5aGtmdnFCN3kzQT09>

Services held at St Andrew's:

Please note: During the vacancy the normal pattern of worship may vary from month to month.

6th April 10.30am – Morning Praise

13th April 10.30am – Holy Communion for Palm Sunday with Bishop Richard

14th, 15th & 16th April 7.00pm – Short evening service for Holy Week in the Family Room

17th April 7.00pm – Maundy Thursday Agape – simple meal & liturgy

18th April 9.00am – Good Friday – Brief morning prayer “The Crucifixion”. CTC Walk of Witness starts at Aley Green at 10am.

20th April 10.30am – Holy Communion – Easter Day

27th April 10.30am - Short family service followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting



Little Stars starts at 10.30am each Wednesday.

We will be running sessions on 23rd & 30th April (we are closed on 2nd, 9th & 16th April for the Easter Holidays). The kettle goes on at 10am

Turn up whenever suits your little one's routine.

A message from St Andrew's

As I write these words in early March, there are signs of Spring all around. Did I hear the sound of a motor mower just then? Must be time to get mine out of hibernation!

How lovely to see the snowdrops in St. Andrew's church yard, and driving from Harpenden to Redbourn along the B478, it was wonderful to see so many lambs tails on the hazel trees (I hadn't seen any real lambs by this time).

Real signs of new life! On the day I write this it's cold but the sun is shining, a few hardy daffodils are emerging and new life is beginning to emerge after the dark times of winter.

A visit to The Range and to any garden centre and there on the shelves are fluffy chicks, cuddly lambs and all the signs of Easter. More signs of new life. Easter eggs seemed to appear in supermarkets in January!

There is another new life. Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full". Jesus promises that whatever dark days you may have had, or are going through, he can bring you light and life, not just now but for all eternity.

For many, Easter is just a time for the fluffy bunnies and Easter eggs, but it's much, much more. Christians remember that Jesus died to bring us forgiveness and love, and then rose from the depth of his grave to go back to his Father in heaven. If we believe that, then we have life! New life!

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead". These are words from the first letter of Peter. New life, new hope! All found in Jesus. Knowing him is like starting all over again!

Blessings,

Richard Palmer
Reader
St. Andrew's Church



TWO in TEN

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Slip End Village Hall

Wednesday 16th April 2025

2.30pm to 4.30pm

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Easter Bonnet Competition



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A Memoir (Reminiscences 1904 – 1931)

By Ethel Matilda Ruckwood (née Edwards)

Written January 19th, 1974

Everyone, it is said, has a story to tell if they have time and ability. I have not much ability, but I have lots of time, and I am tired of knitting and house-keeping, especially as I cannot do much shopping as I am not able to walk far, so Sid (my husband) does it all, and very well too.

To begin with, it is a lovely sunshiny day for January. Bright sunshine, warm winds and altogether lovely. I think I'll start back when I was about three, I remember it well, as I was used to going to a little shop near home, where an old lady, very sweet, would give me a sweet or two, and after Xmas, all her sample Xmas card books. These, I believe, were my first acquaintance with pictures, and I know I kept some for years.

I remember, now I seem to be in the mood of that time, that we moved house. My father was out of work, he was a good bricklayer, and he heard of work at a place called Luton Hoo, near Luton, a town where hats were made. There was plenty of work for a married woman except in the dull season, and as that occurred at the end of spring no-one seemed to mind. So, we put our household in a van one day and set out for Luton. We got everything in including the cat, Fluff, my dearest possession, then we started on our fifty-mile journey by train, my first.

I do not think I know much about that. My memory goes back to a long dusty road to Slip End, our destination. My Mother and Aunt Mary, her sister, taking it in turns for my sister was not yet able to walk, and I walked beside it, until I was tired when Aunt Mary carried our best china lampshade, and I was perched in its place.

We were very tired of walking. It was a hot day, when we came to a little newly built church, very sweet looking, seemingly ready for a good congregation. A short way from it the rectory was being put up and a gang of young workmen were singing the latest song. My mother stopped and called to them. They turned their brown faces to her. "Is it far to Slip End?" she said tiredly. "Just up the road" said the youngest politely. "Where are you from?" "Market Harborough" said she. "Oh" said another "That's where the Prince of Wales goes hunting, ever seen him?" "Lots of times," said Mother. "Would you like a cuppa tea?" They declined the tea my aunt told me afterwards. They wanted to see their new house.



They soon found it – the first one in a row of cottages. It was near a baker's establishment, and at first, they did not like it. "It will, perhaps" said mother "be better inside". Alas for their hopes, two down and two up and a shared scullery. They both sat down and wept. They had not come from a palace, but imagine sharing a sink etc and a scullery – what could be worse? When my father came home, my mother would not speak to him. "Well" he said "There is not another anywhere".

One of their neighbours to be came in with a pot of tea and some little cakes. "Poor things" she said, "You must be tired". She told them of what amenities there were in the village. A butcher came out from the town, and a grocer once a fortnight. Several farms around also provided milk, butter, fresh eggs and poultry, pork in season.

The villagers mostly worked on the farms and the women went to their farmers' wives to housekeep. There were three pubs, one at each corner. A Methodist chapel, a new church, not yet quite finished. A large house, occupied by the squire, Sir John Sambrook Crawley, who had the church built, and who was the owner of most of the farms.

Well, we had a house and a roof over our heads, but oh for our lovely clean town, and our own sink, etc. We slept badly, it was almost dark when the van turned up and the first thing they did was to drop the wooden box containing mother's wedding gift of a pink service – a tea service she was very proud of. We had no time to put up the beds, so we laid some mattresses on the floor.

As time went on, we got acclimatised and I was taken to the small school. One thing it contained I have never seen or heard of anywhere else – the babies' class was made of steps that went up to the ceiling. The youngest had the first row, and the elder children went higher up according to age. It was taken away before I left the small children's part, but I do remember it very well. Years later, when I had some acquaintance with different schools, I thought how lucky I was to have actually sat in the staircase as we called it. I do remember how pleased we were with it because our teachers did not want to go up and down when we needed correction. We could do all sorts of tricks when we sat above the teachers, for they could not reach us in time, for we had plenty of warning.

More of Ethel's memories of Slip End will be shared in the months to come. The Parish news is grateful to Karen and Catherine for sharing these memoirs with us.



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Our Speaker's subject tonight was the Hygiene Bank. We started by being asked several innocuous questions, have you showered today, cleaned your teeth, put on deodorant done the laundry, and the list goes on? After much hand-raising by members, our speaker pointed out that some people must choose whether to buy food or hygiene items.

The work of the Hygiene Bank is to gather unwanted unused hygiene items to be sorted, packed and distributed to school children, families, the homeless, and other charities for them to pass on. You may have noticed Yellow Boxes in branches of Boots, Dunelm, and the College in St. Albans. There are drop off receptacles for donations. Please put your unwanted items in these boxes. Thank you.

It was our Annual Meeting tonight. Our County Advisor, Dot Wigg. presided. After a show of hands, it was agreed the present committee would remain. We have had a wide variety of speakers, craft evenings, games and fun times this past year.

For our meeting in April, members were asked to wear an Easter Bonnet.

We are planning the running of the kitchen for St. Georges Day. An event held yearly in the Heathfield Community Centre .This is on Sunday 27th April from 11 a.m. until 4 pl.m. Our Members are providing Refreshments including Chris's Bacon Rolls. Come along for an entertaining Village Event.

Our Meetings are held on the First Tuesday of each month at the Caddington Sports and Social Club in Manor Road starting at 7.30 pm. We are a small group of lively ladies and you are most welcome to join us.

Linda Edwards

07771 340108



CRIME REPORT



Parish Crime Statistics
February 2025



Aley Green

None

Hyde

None

Pepperstock

None

Slip End

Death or serious injury by dangerous driving **1**

Harassment **1**

Possession of controlled drugs **1**

Assault without injury **1**

Stalking **1**

Theft from motor vehicle **3**

Interfering with a motor vehicle **2**

Total - 10

Woodside

Assault without injury **1**

Other theft **1**

Total - 2

Caddington

Theft from a motor vehicle **5**

Assault without injury **2**

Assault with injury **2**

Interfering with a motor vehicle **1**

Kidnapping **1**

Harassment **1**

Other criminal damage **1**

Theft from person **1**

Possession of controlled drugs **1**

Theft or unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle **1**

Residential burglary (Home) **1**

Death or serious injury by dangerous driving **1**

Other criminal damage **1**

Total - 19

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS CRIM

Diary - If you would like your events included, please contact the Editor

What's going on in 2025

Weekly **Soup & Sandwich** **Tuesday 12-2pm** **Rising Sun**

Weekly **Chatty Club every Wednesday** **Rising Sun** **1pm—3pm**

April

Fri 4th **GNS AGM, Village Hall, 7:30pm (See P12)**

Wed 16th **GNS Easter Party, Village Hall, 2:30pm - 4:30pm (See P25)**

Wed 16th **Spring Open Day, Luton Hoo, 10:30am - 1pm (See P10)**

Sat 26th **Coffee Morning, St Andrew's Church, 10am - 12pm**

Sun 27th **St Georges Fun Day, Heathfield Centre, 11am - 4pm (See P11)**

May

Mon 5th **VE Day Celebrations, Village Hall, 11am - 2pm (See P3)**

June

Mon 16th **Gardening Club, Village Hall, 8pm, Guest Speaker**

July

Sat 5th **Village Day, Slip End Playing Fields, 11am - 4pm (See P4)**

Parish News Online

For those who like to read magazines on tablet / screen, Parish News can be found online at:-

www.slipendparishcouncil.gov.uk and www.slipend.co.uk where historical copies can also be found.

Bin Collections - April

Orange - 4th, 18th April

Black bin and Glass - 11th, 25th April

Food Waste bin - Every Friday

Green - 4th, 18th April



COMMUNITY AND SERVICES

Services:-	Good Neighbour Scheme: 07513 37 24 15
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Doctor	Caddington Surgery 725673
Doctor	Markyate Surgery 841559
Pharmacy	Medigreen, Caddington 457800
Schools:	Slip End Village School 720152 Manshead 679400
Caddington Village School 726058	St Mary's Catholic Primary 602420

Churches:-	Pepperstock Archers	Women's Institute 01582
St Andrew's Church:	07914 381847	737036
Julie Taylor (Reader)	targetsports@virginmedia.co	
01582 413912	m (Chris Ingram)	
Mob 07841482119	Tennis 733253	Chatty Club Jean Turner
duncan.taylor@btinternet.com		01582 421304 or Cathy Rose
Wardens:	Runners Peter Barber	01582 457362
Steve Baird 738205	07587 89260.	Book Club (contact via
Aley Green Methodist		Parish News)
Church.	Slip End Veterans Football	CaSeBuG (Caddington and
Minister:	Wayne Leslie (see football)	Slip End Bus user group).
Rev Nigel Bibbings	Community:-	info@casebug.org
Senior Steward:	Gardening Club 423622	
Ann Meader 733668	Beavers,	www.slipend.co.uk
Sport:-	Cubs & Scouts 418014	www.slipendparishcouncil.gov.uk
Bowling Club 412506	Pre-School - Hayley	
Football	Bolton, 07889824367	
517042 or 07515687160	FoSELS 07810002942 PTA)	
wayne@dngsales.co.uk	or fosels@outlook.com	
Line Dancing		
07737 317147 or 01582		
260303 - Jean Anderson		

Items for the next issue (May) to us by 15th April 2025

(Editor — John) Adverts by 10th please

Any delivery problems? Contact Alan Buttery at 1 Claydown Way
(01582 724527), alanjan4546@gmail.com

Anything interesting to report about village activities, photos, holidays, etc.
Please contact us, letters and e-mails are encouraged.

Views expressed by our contributors are not the Editors' own.

Articles should be sent by the 15th of the preceding month to the Editors - John Larsen
1 The Grove, Woodside Park or Matt Freeman 20 Crawley Close
or e-Mail parishnews@slipend.co.uk

Advertising queries to Jo Moss 01582484373 or Parishadverts@gmail.com

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Contact details



Cllr Kevin Collins

Cllr Vicky Malone

kevin.collins@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Vicky.malone@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

MP's

Contact details
Rachel Hopkins



Her local office is located at:
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